

measuring geometry: 4 cm

gap: 800  $\mu$ m

frequency: 10 Hz, and

which is a hydrogel obtained by irradiation with ultraviolet rays of a photoreactive hyaluronic acid derivative in which a photoreactive crosslinking group is chemically linked to a functional group of the hyaluronic acid and crosslinking of mutual photoreactive crosslinking groups.

*A*  
*Cancelled*  
wherein said photoreactive crosslinking group is a cinnamic acid derivative containing a spacer and chemically links to a functional group of hyaluronic acid to afford said photoreactive hyaluronic acid derivative; and

said mutual photoreactive crosslinking groups of said photoreactive hyaluronic acid derivative are dimerized by irradiation with ultraviolet rays to form a cyclobutane ring and to thereby form said network structure.

Claim 2, line 1, delete "A" and insert --The--;

delete "gel" and insert ~~hydrogel according to claim 1~~.

*A<sup>2</sup>*  
line 3, delete ",";

lines 4-9, delete in its entirety except for the ".".

Claim 3, line 1, delete "A" and insert --The--;

*a3*  
delete "gel" and insert --hydrogel according to claim 1--;

line 5, delete ", and";

lines 6-10, delete in its entirety except for the ":".

Kindly cancel claim 4, the subject matter thereof having been inserted into claim 1.

Claim 5, line 1, delete "gel" and insert --hydrogel--;

line 2, delete "claim 4" and insert --claim 1--.

Claim 6, line 1, delete "gel" and insert --hydrogel--;

line 2, delete "claim 4 or 5" and insert --claim 1--.

Claim 7, line 1, delete "gel" and insert --hydrogel--;

line 2, delete "any one of claims 1 to 5" and insert --claim 1--.

Claim 8, line 1, delete "gel" and insert --hydrogel--;

line 13, after "derivative" insert --in an aqueous medium solution--.

*a4*  
Claim 9, line 1, delete "gel" and insert --hydrogel--;

line 17 (second line from the bottom) after "derivative" insert --in an

*a5* aqueous medium solution--.

Claim 10, line 1, delete "gel" and insert --hydrogel--.

Claim 11, line 2, delete "claims 1 to 10" and insert --claims 1, 8, 9 and 10--.

Claim 12, line 2, delete "gel" and insert --hydrogel--.

Claim 13, line 2, delete "gel" and insert --hydrogel--.

*b1* 14. (Amended) [The] A method for preparing a photocured crosslinked-hyaluronic acid [gel according to claim 13,] hydrogel comprising:

irradiating with ultraviolet rays an aqueous medium solution containing from 0.5 to 10%  
by weight photoreactive hyaluronic acid derivative in which a photoreactive crosslinking group  
is chemically linked to a functional group of the hyaluronic acid; and

forming an intermolecular and/or intramolecular crosslinking by dimerization of the  
mutual photoreactive crosslinking groups to provide a network structure,

wherein [said] a heat treatment is conducted at from 100 to 125°C for from 5 to 30 minutes with high pressure steam before and/or after irradiation with ultraviolet rays of said  
aqueous medium solution of the photoreactive hyaluronic acid derivative.

*h* Claim 15, line 2 delete "gel" and insert --hydrogel--.

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line 3, delete "1 to 11" and insert --1, 8, 9 and 10--.

Claim 19, line 2, delete "gel" and insert --hydrogel--;

line 3, delete "1-11" and insert --1, 8, 9, and 10--; delete "gel" and  
insert --hydrogel--.

Claim 20, line 3 delete "gel" and insert --hydrogel--

Add the following claims 21 and 22:

*18*  
21. The photocured crosslinking-hyaluronic acid hydrogel according to any one of  
claims 1, *7, 8, 9* and *10*, which is capable of being pushed out from a container.

*A 7*  
*19*  
22. The method for preparing a photocured crosslinked-hyaluronic acid hydrogel  
according to claim *7, 8* or *9*, wherein said heat treatment is conducted at from 100 to 125°C for  
from 5 to 30 minutes with high pressure stream.

REMARKS

Reconsideration is respectfully requested in view of Applicants' amendments and  
remarks herein.

In paragraphs 1-4 of the Office Action, the Examiner documents the restriction  
requirement and earlier telephonic election of the Group I, claims 1-16 and 19-20. Applicants  
confirm this election. The election was made without traverse.